

J.J.

THE FAITHFUL GOD
Deuteronomy 7:6-9

Deuteronomy 7: 6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

7 The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the Lord loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Pray

Last week, we started talking about God's faithfulness and it's good to remember that.

Quick Review :

Background that this was Moses reminders or sermons before the Israelites would cross the Promised Land. Moses himself did not cross the Promised Land as I mentioned the reason last week.

Sometimes, I feel like the Israelite who are in the desert waiting to cross the Promised Land. But at the end of the day, our Promised Land is not here. It is the time when our Lord Jesus comes back again and we'll spend eternity with Him. He is our Promised Land.

John 14 : 1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

In the meantime,
IT'S GOOD TO REMEMBER, THAT GOD IS FAITHFUL.

GOD IS FAITHFUL. WE ARE HIS POSSESSION, HE HAS SET HIS AFFECTION ON US AND WE ARE PROMISED HIS PROVISION.

It's good to put this in our mind. I know he's talking about the Israelites here but the principles can also be applied to us.

I. WE ARE GOD'S POSSESSION

6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

It's good to remember, that we belong to God. What does that mean?

1. We were set apart for Himself.

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God

Etymology: kawdosh – set apart for a special purpose.

Remember, the reason why God created the nation of Israel through Abraham is because He will use this nation as the people where our Lord Jesus comes from.

John 4:22 You Samaritans know very little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews.

Remember, as we shared last week, you are set apart for our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. We were chosen by our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people

This is the reason why the Bible tell us...

The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession

Remember, you are HOLY, CHOSEN AND TREASURED

Deuteronomy 7: 6 For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

II. WE ARE GOD'S AFFECTION

7 The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the Lord loved you

Etymology : hasaq ; KJV mentioned love but the word is not chesed, it's hasaq

It's more of a desire... it's not the earthly or worldly kind of desire...it's a want... it's coming from the deepest part of you.

Genesis 34:8 But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as a wife.

What kind of desire is this?

It's an attachment. Someone or something you don't want to let go.

Illustration: My first encounter of having this desire is when I was young and I loved this soft drink (soda) in the Philippines called Royal Tru-Orange. One time, my Nanay said that she will buy me Royal Tru-Orange during lunch time. Her office was just a few steps away from our school. All morning, even when I was in school, the only thing I was thinking about was Royal Tru-Orange. I couldn't wait for lunchtime. So when the school bell rang signalling it was lunch time, I ran to the gate of the school and when I got out, the guard grabbed me at the back of my shirt and pulled me. (I didn't know at that time that I cannot just exit anytime without permission.) I struggled and wanted to get away from him but he carried me and I was shouting, "My mom would buy me Royal Tru-Orange". I was carried back into the room and I was crying and sobbing and just telling, "My mom said she would buy me Royal Tru-Orange."

School time was over. I went to my mom's office and I was mad at her and then she said, "Ok, let's buy you now Royal Tru-Orange." There was a canteen beside us and when she asked, if there was Royal True Orange, the waitress said there was none... so I had to settle for 7-up.

That's what "hasaq" means. It's a longing deep within you that you can't get out of your mind because you really desire it.

We are always on God's mind.

Psalm 139:17 How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! 18 I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! (NLT)

I can preach many sermons on how God desires us. I preached it also one Sunday regarding God's love.

It's just so many.

Application: This is the reason that whatever you're going through right now, **God is thinking about you. He cares about you.** That's why we just so the Psalmist wrote : *"How precious are your thoughts...."*

The reason why it's precious it's because He is a holy God, this means, all His thoughts about us is holy love...intentions are pure.

Illustration: I will never get tired of telling this story : When I was in the middle of doubting God's love because I was burdened with a lot of problems. Problems at work and then my wife was in the middle of her chemotherapy and it wasn't looking good at that time, I was walking towards the car and I looked up at the sky and asked, "Lord, mahal mo ba talaga ako." I entered the car, my cellphone rang and here's a pastor I've never talked for quite some time and he said, "The Lord has put you in my heart the whole day and I called because He wants to tell you this.... "Mahal na mahal kita." I cried like a baby in the car.

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You might ask, what is the proof that He so desires us?

THE CROSS!!! He gave His own Son Jesus Christ so that we can be with Him.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The question is why?

7 The Lord did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.

Context: Remember during that time the might and power of a nation is measured by the size of the army. That's how nations can be sure they are protected, and they can also conquer lands.

What is God demonstrating here?

We cannot earn God's affection.

We cannot go to the Lord and tell Him, "Lord, I deserve your love and affection because of this and that."

Biblical Illustration: Remember the parable of the Pharisee and tax collector.

Both of them went to the temple to pray.

What did the Pharisee pray for?

Luke 8: 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

And what did the tax collector pray for? (they were considered one of the worst sinners during that time)

13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

What did Jesus say?

14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.

That's what you call justification. We are trying to justify before God that we deserve His affections to us simply because of who we are and what we do.

Galatians 2:16 know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 1:9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

Quote : Jesus Christ knows the worst about you. Nonetheless, He is the one who loves you most – A.W. Tozer.

So why does He desire us and choose us? SIMPLE....

8 But it was because the Lord loved you

That's it! It's all by GRACE.

We are holy, chosen, treasured and desired simply because He loves us...

The word that was used here is not chesed, but abah.

Etymology: ababa “female form” abab “masculine form” abab – root word

To desire, to breath after – a longing, Remember when you’re longing for someone, there’s something that happens physiologically...

Husband and wife conversation :

Wife : Why do you love me? Is it because of my eyes.

Husband : Yes

Wife : But what if get cross-eyed?

Husband : I will still love you.

Wife : Why do you love me? Is it because of my teeth?

Husband : Yes

Wife : What if I lose all of my teeth.

Husband : I will still love you.

Wife : Why do you love me? Is it because of my face?

Husband : Yes

Wife : What if I become wrinkly already?

Husband : I will still love you.

Wife : Why do you love me?

Husband : It's because I love you.

It's the same with the Lord. He desires us because He loves us even before we were born.

STORY : There was a boy who did not have much athletic ability. Every time he and his friends would play some game, he was always the last to be chosen. One day two new fellows came to play with them and were allowed to be team captains because they were older. The first team captain chose the boy who had always been chosen last before. Why? Because they were brothers, and he loved his brother. So it is with God. He chose us not because of our abilities, but because he loves us.

From a sermon by Mark Schaeufele, A Messiah Who Serves, 5/27/2010

The only thing He asks from us is to love Him back as much as He loves us.

S.G.D.

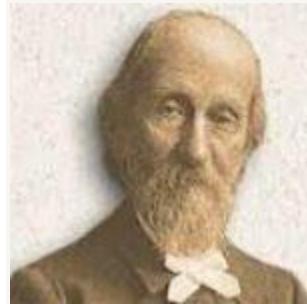
III. PROVISION

and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Doing God's will, God's way will always have God's provision - Hudson

Depend on it! God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply.

God is ready to assume full responsibility for the life wholly yielded to Him.



Andrew Murray

Delivered...

Because he hath set his love H2836 upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. Psalm 91:14

UNDER THE SHADE

Proverbs 3:6

proclaims, “In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success,”

Deuteronomy 4: 39 Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. 40 Keep his decrees and commands, which I am giving you today, so that it may go well with you and your children after you and that you may live long in the land the Lord your God gives you for all time.

Deuteronomy 5: 29 Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!

Deuteronomy 6: These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 2 so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. 3 Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[a] 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

10 When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, 11 houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, 12 be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.